

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 3/9/2018 7:38:40 PM
To: Biesecker, Michael [MBiesecker@ap.org]
CC: Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Press [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Go BIG Media Inc. contract

The firm is Strategies 360 and it's co-founded by a Democrat campaign manager.

On Mar 9, 2018, at 2:31 PM, Biesecker, Michael <MBiesecker@ap.org> wrote:

James,

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Sent: Friday, March 09, 2018 2:24 PM
To: Biesecker, Michael <MBiesecker@ap.org>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Go BIG Media Inc. contract

Hi Michael,

You can attribute to EPA Spokesman Jahan Wilcox:

"We had two options: one vendor was \$29,140 and the other was \$6,500, but ultimately this document was made in-house. This pales in comparison to the previous administration that paid \$570,000 to a Democratic campaign manager's PR firm to run EPA's What's Upstream campaign."

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Jahan,

Please provide on-the-record comment on the \$6,500 contract to Go BIG Media Inc. to help produce EPA's year end report.

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<image001.jpg>

Michael Biesecker

Reporter

mbiesecker@ap.org

Twitter: @mbieseck

[Public Key](#)

<image002.jpg>

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To: Biesecker, Michael [MBiesecker@ap.org]
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Subject: Re: Go BIG Media Inc. contract

I understand you were in North Carolina and believe you are somewhat new to EPA.

That said the AP claims they call it both ways: so I am asking did AP report when the news of What's Up Stream first emerged? I cannot find the story - maybe AP did, maybe AP did not - but if AP did not report on What's UpStream when it first emerged, then why does AP find this newsworthy.

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Sent: 3/9/2018 6:38:22 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
CC: Press [Press@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Go BIG Media Inc. contract

Adding Liz, since Jahan is out.

From: Biesecker, Michael
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2018 1:38 PM
To: 'Wilcox, Jahan' <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
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I was referring to the line in his bio, "Ron was an integral part of four national presidential conventions – both Democratic and Republican." But you may be right on his personal consulting clients, as opposed to the firm's. The firm also has Republican strategists on staff, including Phil Hardy (Labrador and Trump) and Adrian Bakke (Kasich), according to its website.

But, as noted in the OIG report, EPA gave a grant to Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, which gave a sub grant to Swinomish Indian Tribe, which in turn hired Strategies 360. In contrast, EPA has recently used public money to directly hire two media consulting firms with strong GOP ties (though the first was cancelled amid public scrutiny). AP will include your quote, but will also include that additional context.

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Also what Republican did Ron Douthauer work for? I've spent 30 minutes searching through the FEC reports and have not seen anything yet, but will continue to look.

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